

USDA/Rural Development

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News Release

TX.092.02

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USDA ANNOUNCES FEDERAL FUNDING

(City of Avinger to Receive \$345,800 Water and Waste Disposal Loan)

Avinger, Texas, October 29, 2002 — Bryan Daniel, state director, Texas USDA Rural Development announced today that the city of Avinger was awarded a \$345,800 loan and grant through the agency's Rural Utilities Service Water and Wastewater program. The effort is part of USDA's national program to help provide rural areas with safe, dependable water and modern sewage systems.

"One of the goals of USDA Rural Development is to provide water and wastewater treatment programs that target public health benefits and provide economic opportunities to America's rural communities," said Daniel. "Rural residents can utilize our programs to help provide essential public services that will enhance the quality of life for all rural residents."

The funds will be used to construct a 75,000-gallon elevated tank and related appurtenances. Population served by this project is 478.

The funds for this project comes as a result of the 2002 Farm Bill which provided \$360 million nationwide for water and wastewater projects in addition to Rural Development's 2002 funding of more than \$1 billion nationwide.

In Fiscal Year 2001, \$65.5 million of loan and grant assistance was infused into 29 rural Texas communities. USDA's water and wastewater program is designed to bring fresh, clean drinking water and sanitary, environmentally sound sewage facilities to rural America's 53 million residents. Loans and grants are available to rural communities of fewer than 10,000 residents. Public bodies, corporations operated on a nonprofit basis, and Indian tribes, that are unable to obtain credit from other sources at reasonable rates and terms, are eligible for assistance.

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For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Mount Pleasant Local Office at (903) 572-5411, EXT. 4.

USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.

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The USDA Rural Development mission area was created in 1994 and includes the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, the Rural Housing Service, and the Rural Utilities Service. Its mission is to use the resources of USDA to provide an improved quality of life for the nation's 53 million rural people.

For more information on USDA Rural Development programs in Texas, check our web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>

